

Wabash Plain Dealer

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THURSDAY,
APRIL 16, 2020

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Tomorrow's
weather 40 | 30



Pulse
of Wabash

Attention Class of 2020

The Wabash Plain Dealer is launching an interactive campaign to celebrate our Wabash County seniors! With COVID-19 disrupting graduation plans and daily life for our students, we want to do something special to commemorate their hard work and memories. We will be posting photo challenges at www.facebook.com/wabashpd and the best submissions will be featured on our website and in a special section published at the end of the school year. Submit your favorite memories to news@wabashplaindealer.com or post your memories and photos to your social media page using the hashtag #WCClassof2020 to participate.

Notice to readers

To reduce risks to our employees and community, the Wabash Plain Dealer is closed to the public until further notice. Payments may be dropped in the mail slot or called in. For news, call 260-225-4662 or email news@wabashplaindealer.com. For advertising, call 260-225-4947 or email tcampbell@pmginmi.com. For circulation and customer support, call 260-563-2131. To bring you the most accurate information about the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Wabash Plain Dealer has decided to prioritize news content over sports stories since sporting events are canceled for the time being. The Wabash Plain Dealer is committed to providing the best product to its customers and appreciates the support during this time. Thank you.

Gov. Eric Holcomb extends stay-at-home order until April 21

The stay-at-home order originally extended to April 7. That date was pushed back to April 21.

Wabash County under a code yellow travel advisory

The lowest level of local travel advisory, code yellow means that routine travel or activities may be restricted in areas because of a hazardous situation, and individuals should use caution or avoid those

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Provided photo

Fourteen Heartland Career Center students from the Criminal Justice Program effectively used their time during their quarantine and became certified Emergency Telecommunicators (ETC).

Making the most of remote learning

Students at Heartland Career Center Criminal Justice Program earn certification

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Fourteen Heartland Career Center students from the Criminal Justice Program effectively used their time during their quarantine and became certified Emergency Telecommunicators (ETC).

In a statement to the Plain Dealer on Tuesday, Leroy Striker, Criminal Justice Program teacher, stated in March he became a certified Emergency Telecommunicators Instructor through Priority Dispatch Corporation to offer his students additional opportunities to attain viable certifications in this program.

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development recognizes the Emergency Telecommunicator (ETC) as an essential component of any effective public safety response system.

Striker stated the ETC course provides a 40-hour introductory training for a wide range of concepts and skills needed to successfully work in a public safety communication center. The ETC program is designed and produced by the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch (NAED).

"The course is designed



This is the morning Criminal Justice Program class. Students who participated include (left to right): Row Two: fifth person, Hannah Hicks; and sixth person, Taylor Hoover. Not pictured were Taylor Williams and Brooke Bowling.

to train students unfamiliar with emergency communication centers in emergency telecommunication technology, interpersonal communication, legal issues and job stress factors," stated Striker.

Striker stated Indiana's Department of Education recognizes the ETC Certification as part of the List of Promoted Industry Certifications in Career and Tech-

nical Education (CTE) and ETC has undergone a rigorous process for inclusion and promotion in the state.

"To be included on the list, a certification must be both recognized and valued by industry, must have transference to post-secondary training programs and must lead to quality employment. Certifications are reviewed annually to ensure that they remain relevant to current

industry needs," he stated. "Recognizing the need for Emergency Telecommunicators, (dispatchers, I) contacted Wabash County Central Dispatch Director Sandy Beeks to seek her advice and input."

Striker stated students successfully passed the certification test Tuesday, April 14 in time for National Public

See HEARTLAND, page A2

Braun to field COVID-19 questions on PBS Fort Wayne

'Coronavirus: A Live Community Forum' set for 7 p.m. Friday

STAFF REPORT

Sen. Mike Braun, R-Indiana, is set to participate during "Coronavirus: A Live Community Forum" at 7 p.m. Friday, April 17 on PBS Fort Wayne, according to Mark Ryan, WFWA community relations manager.

Braun is scheduled to join this hour-long conversation from his home in Jasper.

"The special broadcast updates the evolving local, state and national response to the COVID-19 pandemic," stated Ryan.

The program also features Allen County Health



BRAUN

Commissioner Dr. Deb McManis and psychiatrist Dr. Jay Fawver, host of "Matters of the Mind" on PBS Fort Wayne, which airs at 7:30 p.m. Mondays. Local medical and community leaders round out the in-studio guest list.

Viewers wishing to send in questions ahead of time for this program may do so by email at info@fwfwa.org before 5 p.m. Thursday.

While not all questions submitted may be answered, viewers may also call in to the PBS Fort Wayne Studio at 866-969-2721 to have their questions answered by in-studio experts during this program.

Indiana 105 bridge at Salamonie Lake to be closed

The bridge, and road, is scheduled to re-open on Nov. 15

STAFF REPORT

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is closing the Indiana 105 bridge over the Salamonie Reservoir on Wednesday, April 15, accord to Lynnanne Fager, interpretive naturalist at Upper Wabash Interpretive Services at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Salamonie Lost Bridge West and East state recreation areas will only be accessible from the south.

To access Indiana 105

on the north side of the bridge, from the south of the bridge heading north on Indiana 105, the official detour will be Indiana 124 to Indiana 9 to Highway 24.

The entire bridge deck will be removed and replaced.

The bridge, and road, is scheduled to re-open on Nov. 15.

"However, there is some work to be done around the piers down in the reservoir over the winter while the water is down," stated Fager.

Buoys were placed in the water on Monday, April 13. Water traffic will be maintained under the bridge, but only in the channel designated by the buoys.

Red Cross increases blood donation safety

Recovered COVID-19 patients also encouraged to give plasma

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

With the safety on everyone's minds due to COVID-19, local blood donation opportunities may look a bit different than usual.

Local blood donation opportunities

Currently scheduled Wabash County blood donation opportunities include:

■ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 21 at First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

■ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 13 at Richvalley Community Center, 56 W. Mill St.

■ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 19 at First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

■ 2 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 2 at the Wabash County YMCA, 500 S. Cass St.

■ 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 6 at Scotty's Bar, 780 Manchester Ave.

Increased safety

In response to a Plain Dealer request Tuesday, Kaleena Wright, interim executive director of the American Red Cross' Northeast Indiana Chapter, stated the immediate blood shortage which occurred the start of the COVID-19 pandemic's spread in the area has been resolved.

"Thanks to the many who gave blood and scheduled upcoming appointments, the American Red Cross has been able to meet immediate patient needs. During this uncertain time, we encourage

See REDCROSS, page A2

First COVID-19-related death at an IDOC facility

The offender was a male over the age of 70

STAFF REPORT

The Indiana Department of Correction reported the first COVID-19-related death of an offender late Monday at the Westville Correctional Facility, located in Westville, according to David Bursten chief communications officer.

"The offender, a male over the age of 70, who did not have indications of illness, reported experiencing chest pains and trouble breathing on Monday. He was transported to a local hospital by ambulance and later died at the hospital. While at the hospital, the offender tested positive for COVID-19," stated Bursten. "Immediate family will be notified. No other information is available."

To love and to cherish: Nurse couple unites to fight virus

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON**
Associated Press

Between surgeries one stressful morning, Ben Cayer and Mindy Brock — husband and wife, and fellow nurse anesthetists — peered through layers of protective gear, and locked eyes.

It was a lovers' gaze in the most unlikely situation. A co-worker was there to snap a picture.

Now the image, shared on social media, is inspiring people around the globe.

"Everybody's talking about the photo," says Cayer, 46. It strikes a chord "because we're all going through the same thing right now and it's a symbol of hope and love."

Brock, 38, adds: "What's important is that we stick together, we work together, and we always support each other. And not just Ben and I, but the human race right now."

The Florida pair share a home, a profession and, now, a mission — shouldering the high-risk duty of placing breathing tubes in surgery

patients, any of whom may have COVID-19.

They didn't think twice about volunteering for Tampa General Hospital's new "airway team," Cayer says.

Placing a tube into a patient's mouth and down into their airway requires close contact — and because the virus spreads in droplets, the highest level of protective gear. To conserve gear and expose fewer health care workers, the hospital pared down staff to a minimum for intubations before surgery.

Their patients have been in car crashes, or needed brain surgery because of a ruptured blood vessel. As is the case at many U.S. hospitals, only emergency surgeries continue at the Tampa hospital, to make room as the pandemic continues to crest.

They met in nurse anesthesia school in 2007. In classes, they sat in alphabetical order. Brock next to Cayer, she says, "and it just took off from there."

They married five years ago. But on the morning of the photo, they bickered

during the drive to work. They disagreed about what to play on the car radio, and who was doing the dishes at home.

The new COVID-19 procedures — it was Brock's first day on the new team — were making them both tense.

"We were arguing," she says. Later, they found each other between surgeries. The tension melted. "All those trivial things that we were arguing about that morning, in the grand scheme of things, aren't that important." The photo captures that moment.

He says they don't worry much about getting sick, although the virus has come close. Brock's mother has recovered from it. Co-workers fear catching it. Patients feel alone because visitors have been strictly limited.

"We have grown men bawling because none of their family can be there with them," Brock says.

It helps to be married to another nurse, because "unless you're here doing this, there's no way to describe it," she says. "He gets it."

HEARTLAND

From page A1

Safety Telecommunicators Week, which runs from April 12 through 18.

The following students earned certifications:

- Wabash High School: Makayla Lamb and Brooke Bowling.
- Northfield High School: Trinnity Mitchell and Brenton Yarger.
- Southwood High School: Tyler Proffitt and Cherish Allen.
- Manchester High School: Jaynie Shepherd.
- North Miami High School: Taylor Hoover, Hannah Hicks, Taylor Williams, Camile Correll, Lilly Gentry and Maddisson Weidner.



Provided photo

This is the afternoon Criminal Justice Program class. Students who received their certifications include (left to right): Row One: fourth person, Cherish Allen; fifth person, Trinnity Mitchell; seventh person, Camile Correll; eighth person, Lilly Gentry; and ninth person, Maddisson Weidner. Row Two: third person, Angelina Krieg; fifth person, Makayla Lamb; and seventh person, Jaynie Shepherd. Row Three: 1st person--Brenton Yarger; 3rd person--Tyler Proffitt

■ Peru High School: Angelina Krieg.
Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain

Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

REDCROSS

From page A1

individuals to keep scheduled blood donation appointments and to make new blood donation appointments for the weeks ahead to ensure a stable supply throughout this pandemic," stated Wright.

Wright stated "each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control."

"To ensure the health of staff and donors, precautions include: Checking temperatures of staff and donors before entering a drive to make sure they are healthy. Providing hand sanitizer for use before the drive, as well as throughout the donation process; following social distancing between donors including entry, donation and refreshment areas; routinely disinfecting surfaces, equipment and donor-touched areas. Wearing gloves, and changing gloves often; using sterile collection sets and an aseptic scrub for every donation; and staff wearing basic face masks," stated Wright.

Recovered COVID-19 patients donating plasma

According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), one investigational treatment being explored for COVID-19 is the use of convalescent plasma collected from individuals who have recovered from COVID-19.

"Convalescent plasma that contains antibodies to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 or SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) is being studied for administration to patients with COVID-19. Use of convalescent plasma has been studied in outbreaks of other respiratory infections, including the 2003 SARS-CoV-1 epidemic, the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza virus pandemic, and the 2012 MERS-CoV epidemic," stated the FDA's latest guidance Monday. "Although promising, convalescent plasma has not yet been shown to be safe and effective as a treatment for COVID-19. Therefore, it is important to study the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in clinical trials."

Wright stated the American Red Cross is supportive of the FDA's efforts "and is committed to assisting with plasma collections from carefully-screened recovered COVID-19 patients to enable rapid access to treatment for the most seriously ill patients."






"At this time, the Red Cross is working closely with FDA to develop a process to identify and qualify individuals who have recovered from the virus and have the necessary antibodies to participate in this effort," stated Wright.

Wright stated the Red Cross encourages individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 and are currently healthy, to visit RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid to submit their contact information and answer questions to help determine initial eligibility.

"The Red Cross will then follow-up with prospective candidates to confirm eligibility and participation," stated Wright.





Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Thursday Mostly Cloudy 46 / 32	 Friday Rain Likely 40 / 30	 Saturday Partly Cloudy 49 / 43	 Sunday Mostly Cloudy 56 / 41	 Monday Partly Cloudy 54 / 40
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 8:29 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 7:05 a.m.

 New 4/22	 First 4/30	 Full 5/7	 Last 5/14
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 46°, humidity of 39%. West wind 3 to 9 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with a 75% chance of rain and snow, overnight low of 32°. South southeast wind 2 to 6 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 27°.

Woman's social media rant worries friend

DEAR HARRIETTE: A friend of mine, "Mary," went on a rant on social media, saying really unpleasant things about people and even naming them. Obviously, she was upset, but I think this was an unwise thing to do. Who knows who all will see her posts? Plus, the people Mary was talking about don't deserve to be talked about so poorly. I'm sure she is feeling stir crazy from being at home for so long.

In her post, Mary was mad at a couple of friends who hadn't gotten back to her in what she thought was a timely manner while she noticed that they had been communicating with each other back and forth on social media.

She felt left out, and she went off on them. I want to step in and get her to cool off and take these posts down. Do you think that I am crossing a line? We are good friends. I would hope that somebody would pull my coattails if I made such a big mistake. — Having Her Back

Harriette Cole
Sense & Sensitivity



— or simply let it go.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I can't make any sense of this stimulus plan that was just passed. I feel completely overwhelmed right now, but I know that very soon I should be getting money, which I desperately need so that I don't lose my apartment. Do you know how to figure out how to get the money? I'm told we were promised money for every single American, even people who don't make a lot. Do you know how to get the money? — Stimulus

DEAR STIMULUS: You are not alone. The bill was passed recently, and the government is working hard to make it clear to everyone how to get the money that has been allocated for them.

Just as we are looking at the news on a daily basis to learn the progress of the disease, we also need to be vigilant about tracking this much-needed money.

My research suggests that if you are a current taxpayer, the IRS already has your address and bank account information. If that is so, you should automatically receive a disbursement to that account. To learn more, go to irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyle and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

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■ **Email:** news@wabashplaindealer.com

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Visit us online at
www.wabashplaindealer.com

Due to the COVID-19 and difficult times we all are experiencing in Wabash County at the present time, the Wabash Plain Dealer has made the decision to postpone the selection of the Reader's Choice winners.

We will be re-running the ballot pages for you to submit your ballots for your favorite places at a later date to be announced.

Obituaries

Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service

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Angela M. Bowling

July 5, 1979 - April 12, 2020

Angela M. Bowling, 40, passed away at 1:57 a.m., on Sunday, April 12, 2020 at her home. She was born on July 5, 1979, in Wabash, to the late Clayton Bowling and Phyllis (Waite) Jivery. Private family services will be held, and a public memorial service will possibly be held at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana 46992. We encourage you to give the family your love and support by visiting our website at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com. The family would appreciate your kind words, memories of Angela and prayers for them.

Pileup along icy expressway sends 14 to hospitals

CHICAGO (AP) — Portions of a Chicago expressway left icy by a wintry blast that brought overnight snowfall led to a pileup involving of dozens of vehicles early Wednesday, sending 14 people to hospitals, officials said. About 50 vehicles were involved in the 5 a.m. pile-up along the Kennedy Expressway, the Chicago Fire Department said. The crash prompted Illinois State Police to close all of the expressway's southbound lanes near Chicago's North Avenue for about three hours, and multiple northbound lanes also were closed temporarily. Chicago fire officials said 14 people were transported to area hospitals and 32 others were evaluated at the scene. Officials said that low traction along expressway was responsible for the collisions. The National Weather Service said light snow had produced accumulations of less than a half-inch overnight as temperatures fell below freezing and state police were urging people to stay off local roadways. Snow fell across the region Wednesday morning as the Chicago area, northeast and north central Illinois and parts of northwest Indiana were under a winter weather advisory.

10 pioneer-era apple types thought extinct found in U.S. West

By **GILLIAN FLACCUS**
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — A team of retirees that scours the remote ravines and wind-swept plains of the Pacific Northwest for long-forgotten pioneer orchards has rediscovered 10 apple varieties that were believed to be extinct — the largest number ever unearthed in a single season by the nonprofit Lost Apple Project. The Vietnam veteran and former FBI agent who make up the nonprofit recently learned of their tally from last fall's apple sleuthing from expert botanists at the Temperate Orchard Conservancy in Oregon, where all the apples are sent for study and identification. The apples positively identified as previously "lost" were among hundreds of fruits collected in October and November from 140-year-old orchards tucked into small canyons or hidden in forests that have since grown up around them in rural Idaho and Washington state. "It was just one heck of a season. It was almost unbelievable. If we had found one

apple or two apples a year in the past, we thought were doing good. But we were getting one after another after another," said EJ Brandt, who hunts for the apples along with fellow amateur botanist David Benscoter. "I don't know how we're going to keep up with that." Each fall, Brandt and Benscoter spend countless hours and log hundreds of miles searching for ancient — and often dying — apple trees across the Pacific Northwest by truck, all-terrain vehicle and on foot. They collect hundreds of apples from long-abandoned orchards that they find using old maps, county fair records, newspaper clippings and nursery sales ledgers that can tell them which homesteader bought what apple tree and when the purchase happened. By matching names from those records with property maps, they can pinpoint where an orchard might have been — and they often find a few specimens still growing there. The pair carefully note the location of each tree using GPS and tag the tree with a plastic band before bagging the apples in zip-close bags

and shipping them to the Oregon experts for identification. "When I find an apple that's lost, I want to know who homesteaded it, when they were there, who their children were, when they took their last drink of water," Brandt said. "We cannot afford to lose the name of even one of these landowners." In the winter, they return to the trees — often on foot or on snowshoes in freezing temperatures and blinding snow — to take wood cuttings that can be grafted onto root stock to propagate new trees of the varieties that come back as "lost" specimens. The task is huge. North America once had 17,000 named varieties of domesticated apples, but only about 4,500 are known to exist today. The Lost Apple Project believes settlers planted a few hundred varieties in their corner of the Pacific Northwest alone as they moved across the U. S. West to try their hands at the pioneer life. These newcomers planted orchards with enough variety to get them through the long winter, with apples that ripened from early spring until the first frosts. Many were

brought with the settlers in buckets from their homes on the East Coast and in the Midwest. Then, as now, trees planted for eating apples were not raised from seeds; cuttings taken from existing trees were grafted onto a generic root stock and raised to maturity. These cloned trees remove the genetic variation that often makes "wild" apples inedible. With the 10 latest varieties identified, Brandt and Benscoter have rediscovered a total of 23 varieties. The latest finds include the Sary Sinap, an ancient apple from Turkey; the Streaked Pippin, which may have originated as early as 1744 in New York; and the Butter Sweet of Pennsylvania, a variety that was first noted in a trial orchard in Illinois in 1901. Botanists from the Temperate Orchard Society identified them by comparing the collected apples to watercolor illustrations created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the 1800s and early 1900s and by poring over written descriptions in old botany textbooks and reference guides, some of them more than 150 years old.

PULSE

From page A1

areas, according to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

ISDH announces drive-thru COVID-19 testing

Free drive-thru testing clinics for healthcare workers, first responders and essential workers who have symptoms of COVID-19 will take place this week. Clinics will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Friday, April 17 at the following locations: CK Newsome Community Center, 100 E. Walnut St., Evansville; Ivy Tech, 3800 N. Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne; St. Timothy Community Church, 1600 W. 25th Ave., Gary; and Ivy Tech, 8204 Hwy 311, Sellersburg. Participants should bring a driver's license or other State of Indiana-issued identification card and documentation of place of employment. Only symptomatic individuals will be tested. Tests will be conducted as long as supplies last and will be limited to one individual per vehicle.

Closings announced due to COVID-19 concerns

- Access Youth Center: All scheduled after school and weekend programming is canceled until further notice.
- BMV: Closed until at least April 21. The phone number is 888-692-6841 and the lines are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. For more information, visit <https://www.in.gov/bmv/4363.htm>.
- Community Foundation of Wabash County: Individuals with questions may email patty@cfwabash.org or julie@cfwabash.org, or call 260-982-4824.
- Division of Family Resources: Offices closed until further notice. Visit the FSSA benefits portal at www.fssabenefits.in.gov. DFR staff is available by phone at 800-403-0864 to provide customer service from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Clients may also continue to send documents to DFR via mail at P.O. Box 1810, Mari-

on, IN 46952.

- Farm Service Agency: County offices are open in Indiana by phone appointment only until further notice, and staff is available to continue helping agricultural producers with program signups, loan servicing and other important actions. Call 260-563-7486.
- Honeywell Foundation: All events at foundation properties including the Honeywell Center, Honeywell House, Eagles Theatre, Dr. James Ford Historic Home and Charley Creek Gardens are suspended through at least Saturday, April 11.
- Living Well in Wabash County: The Community Cupboard pantry will operate as a drive-through with regular pantry hours, which are from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays; closed Wednesdays; and open from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. Senior lunches at Winchester Senior Center will be operated as a drive-through at the front door of the senior center from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch reservations continue to require 48 business hours of reservations. Seniors age 60 and older wanting a lunch must call Winchester Senior Center at 260-563-4475.
- Manchester Community Schools: Closed through the rest of the school year.
- Manchester University: Remote teaching for students will last through the end of the semester. Residence halls will close for the remainder of the semester. All campus activities for the remainder of the semester have been canceled or postponed. Spring Commencement ceremonies are canceled.
- MSD: Closed through the rest of the school year. The North Manchester Center for History: Temporarily closed to the public. The Crossroads: Change in Rural America exhibit is available through video on the NHCH Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NorthManchesterHistory.
- North Manchester Public Library: Closed until further notice. Except for hotspots, no materials will be due during the closure. All online events will stream

on the NMPL Facebook at www.facebook.com/NorthManchesterPublicLibrary/ and will then be archived on the Online Programming Archive. For more information, email nmpl@nman.lib.in.us, call 260-982-4773 or visit www.nman.lib.in.us.

- St. Bernard School: Closed through the rest of the school year.
- Wabash Carnegie Public Library: Closed through at least April 13. Overdue fines for all times except Wi-Fi hotspots waived until further notice. For more information, email warew@wabash.lib.in.us or visit www.wabash.lib.in.us or www.facebook.com/WabashCarnegieLibrary.
- Wabash City Hall: All public meetings postponed. Citizens should visit www.cityofwabash.com to pay bills for wastewater, ambulance billing and building department permits. City court offers pay by phone services. Phone calls to the main Wabash City Hall number at 260-563-4171 will be answered by voicemail. Questions regarding COVID-19 can also be directed to the new email address at covid19info@cityofwabash.com. Anyone with questions should call 260-274-1485 or email mayor@cityofwabash.com.
- Wabash City Schools: Closed through the rest of the school year. Current e-learning days include Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Wabash Circuit and Superior Courts and Court Services (Probation and Community Corrections divisions): Closed to the public Wednesdays and Fridays through April 30.
- Wabash County Courthouse and Wabash County Health Department: Closed to the public except by appointment. Payments and other documents for these offices may be placed in a large locked box located just inside the west basement door of the courthouse. For more information, visit www.wabashcounty.in.gov or call the Courthouse at 260-563-0661 ext. 1222.
- Wabash County Judicial Center: Closed to the public through April 30. A drop box is located outside, near the top of the stairs, for depositing payments and documents. The Wabash

County Elections office may be reached at 260-563-0661 ext. 1238, Wabash County Circuit Court at 260-563-0661 ext. 1241, Wabash County Superior Court at 260-563-0661 ext. 1254, Wabash County Court Services at 260-563-8466 ext. 1276, Judicial Annex Court Security: 260-563-0661 ext. 1261 and Wabash County Clerk of the Courts: 260-563-0661 ext. 1239.

- Wabash County Museum: Temporarily closed until further notice.
- Wabash County Solid Waste Management District: Offices and warehouse closed to the public until further notice. 24/7 drop sites at 1101 Manchester Ave. and at the Hardware in North Manchester will remain open for regular recycling. For more information, call 260-563-7649.
- Woman's Clubhouse: Closed through at least May 8.
- WorkOne: Closed until further notice. Contact staff by phone at the Wabash location at 260-563-8421.
- Winchester Senior Center: All daily activities suspended until at least April 13.

New dates, postponements, cancellations set for Honeywell Center, Eagles Theatre events

- Honeywell Center: Hairball rescheduled for Friday, Sept. 18. Big Bad Voodoo Daddy will be rescheduled but does not yet have a set date. "Finding Neverland" has been canceled and ticket holders will receive an email with information regarding their refund.
- Honeywell House: Cabaret!!!, Dinner Chamber Series "Opus Two," Conversations on Renovation and Eagles Theatre Ballroom Dances into the Future will be rescheduled, but does not yet have a set date.
- Eagles Theatre: Top of the Charts rescheduled for Thursday, June 18. Tribute to John Denver rescheduled for Thursday, July 23. Buckets N Boards will be rescheduled but does not yet have a set date.

Road closure scheduled for Indiana 114

Culvert replacements are scheduled for Indiana 114

from County 1200 North to Indiana 15 in Wabash County. The road closure is scheduled to begin in mid-April but may begin at the end of April due to weather. The five-day closure will allow maintenance crews to complete the replacement of multiple culvert pipes. Access to homes and businesses will be maintained through the work. The official state detour for the closure will be Indiana 14 to Indiana 15. The work is scheduled to be complete by April 17, weather permitting.

Comedian Michael Palascak to perform at Lagro benefit event

"Dia de Lagro" will take place Tuesday, May 5 at the Eads Barn, 4725 E. 200 North, Urbana. Appetizers, cocktails, singer Kimberly Rutledge and Emcee Reed Christiansen are set to begin at 5:30 p.m. A Mexican-themed dinner, catered by Gallery 64, will begin at 6 p.m. with comedian Michael Palascak taking the stage at 7 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$75 each, \$125 per couple or \$500 for a table of eight. For more information, visit lagrocanalfoundation.com. Those interested in donating prizes for the silent auction or would like to become a main sponsor may email lagrocanalfoundation@gmail.com.

Farmers market season set to begin May 16

The Downtown Wabash Farmers Market opens from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16 in the Honeywell Center/Wabash Elk's Parking Lot. The market occurs every Saturday through Sept. 26. If you are interested in becoming a vendor or volunteering at the event, call 260-563-0975 or visit www.wabashmarketplace.org.

Mural festival seeks local artists

Make It Your Own Mural Fest, organized by the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership and Arts Unit of Greater Fort Wayne,

is asking artists to apply for the Artist and Mentorship Programs as part of the 11-day mural festival scheduled for Sept. 8 to 18. Make It Your Own Mural Fest is also searching for volunteers for the Mentorship Program. Applications are available at www.NEImuralfestival.com and are open through the end of May.

Wabash Kiwanis Club Pancake Day officially rescheduled

The Wabash Kiwanis Club's annual Pancake Day has been rescheduled from March 14 to Saturday, June 6 at the Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds. The event's Pancake Eating Contest will take place at noon. Pancakes, with or without blueberries, will be available, along with sausages and refreshments. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for adults 13 and older and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 and younger. Sponsorship opportunities for businesses are available by emailing Kiwanian Donna Siders at donnasiders@hotmail.com or calling 260-571-1892. For more information, email keaffaberm@msdwc.k12.in.us.

Visit Wabash County announces extreme triathlon

The DAM(N)!MAN! Triathlon and Wabash County Dam to Dam Century Ride will take place on Sunday, Sept. 13. The biking event will celebrate its 11th year. Registration is now open for the triathlon and the bike ride. Those interested in participating or volunteering for the event can get more information by visiting www.visitwabashcounty.com/adventure-series or by calling the Welcome Center at 260-563-7171.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact
your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any
Indiana lawmaker,
go to this website:
[www.in.gov/cgi-bin/
legislative/contact/
contact.pl](http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl)

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplainedeal.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

– 1 Timothy 4:15-16

Journalism is never more vital – and at risk

Remarkable journalism exposed corruption, righted wrongdoings and held government accountable in 2019.

This is highlighted by the recently announced Investigative Reporters & Editors awards. They laud stories exposing abuse of children, bribery and state prison-system failures, among other wrongs.

Sadly, the list could be a high water mark.

While news readership is surging during the pandemic, many outlets are doing stellar work and reporters' zeal for investigative work continues, that's not enough. The crisis is accelerating the downward spiral of the news business.

Several IRE winners and finalists work for publishers that went bankrupt or were sold in private-equity deals in the last six months.

Across all U.S. media, newsroom employment fell 25 percent, shedding 28,000 jobs, from 2008 to 2018, according to Pew Research. At newspapers, newsroom jobs fell 47 percent over that decade. At least 1,800 newspapers went out of business since 2004.

That could be repeated in a single year. So far the crisis has resulted in 28,000 news workers being laid off, furloughed or having pay cut, according to a New York Times estimate. Some newspapers are dropping editions or suspending print altogether.

"Clearly this is going to be an extinction event for some news publishers," industry analyst Ken Doctor told USA Today.

Every industry is suffering, and all workers are important. As the

nation works to shore them up, it must also ensure the free press survives and continues to perform its essential role informing the public and holding institutions accountable.

Newspapers officially have been an essential business since 1791, when the First Amendment was ratified. Democracy depends upon a free press to inform voters. The press also provides critical information such as health and safety information during a crisis.

Local newspapers continue to provide most original reporting in their communities. They "significantly outperform local TV, radio, and online-only outlets in news production, both in overall story output and in terms of stories that are original, local, or address a critical information need," a 2019 Duke University study found.

With advertising and content being siphoned by online giants, press survival increasingly depends on subscribers and philanthropy. It will also require federal support this year.

That's just sustenance. As newspapers contract, fewer may be willing or able to devote resources to investigations.

That makes this year's IRE awards all the more remarkable.

The Chicago Tribune, working with nonprofit ProPublica, was a finalist for exposing schools wrongly confining and restraining children as young as 5. That was in 2019. In early 2020, some staffers are pleading for a philanthropist to rescue the paper from its hedge-fund owner.

Also lauded were stories published by Gannett papers in Tennessee, Kentucky and North

Carolina. All were sold last year to GateHouse Media, a private equity-backed outfit known for trimming newsrooms. The stories exposed shoddy work of doctors denying disability claims, police seizing property from innocent people and drug cartels in the U.S.

Will the merger's debt burden limit those papers' ability to keep investing in such work? Gannett recently ordered staff to take a week off without pay.

McClatchy's Miami Herald, El Nuevo Herald and Washington, D.C., bureau were lauded for exposing corruption by a giant engineering company. McClatchy has since gone bankrupt. Its likely buyer is the hedge fund controlling The National Enquirer.

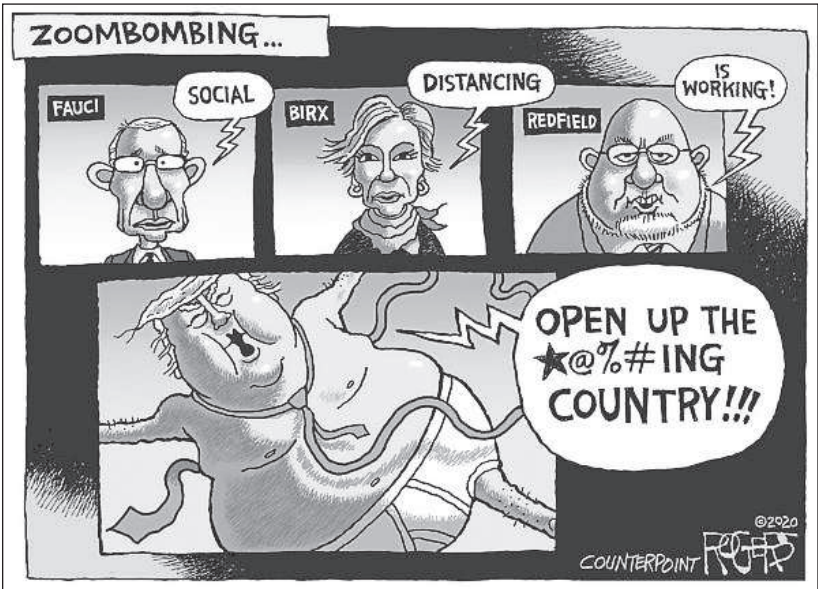
On the bright side are IRE wins by organizations pursuing new models to sustain journalism.

The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit co-founded by a venture capitalist, won for exposing voter-roll shenanigans that disenfranchised thousands of voters. The Philadelphia Inquirer, which was saved by a billionaire who donated it to a nonprofit institute, was lauded for exposing abuse at a youth reform school.

But there are only so many billionaires supporting journalism. Thousands of communities no longer have a local newspaper, or only have ghost papers with little reporting.

The pandemic is highlighting how critical local news coverage is to every community, much less award-winning accountability journalism.

America's free press is essential, gravely threatened and must be preserved.



The economy shall reopen, by order of King Trump

It often seems like a double tragedy that the COVID-19 pandemic arrived during a presidential election year, casting every decision from the Trump White

Kathleen Parker



House in a potentially political light rather than in the certainty that each one is laser-focused on what is prudent.

Alas. President Trump's insistence that we should reopen the country sooner rather than later – by his royal command, apparently – defies reason on multiple levels. The only operable reason is that the election looms while the economy crashes and people are dying.

They're not dying in expected numbers, to judge by Trump's call to end the very measures that are keeping the numbers lower than the millions that were predicted if no mitigation measures were adopted. This is one time when everyone's happy to be wrong.

What is correct, however, is that we are flattening the curves of infections, hospitalizations and deaths precisely because of stay-at-home orders and social distancing measures put in place by governors across the country. Now Trump, who apparently has never read the U.S. Constitution, insists that he has "ultimate authority" to order states to get back to work.

As Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in 1995, "The Framers split the atom of sovereignty. It was the genius of their idea that our citizens would have two political capacities, one state and one federal, each protected from incursion by the other."

But Trump remains convinced that he can tell the governors what

to do. If he has daydreamed about imposing martial law, giving him military command of the country, he would find it difficult to perwalk small-business owners to work at the point of a gun. An absurd proposition, to be sure, but we are living (and dying) in a theater of the absurd when the president tweets that disagreeable governors are mutinous. Mutiny, really?

After flailing against "fake news" at his Monday briefing (not, I hasten to add, without some justification), Trump turned to Twitter to skewer governors who disagree with his push to reopen the economy. Why are some resistant to an economic recovery? Surely, not because they've become attached to massive unemployment and cratering businesses. Perhaps, it's because they trust the scientific community, which broadly prescribes a continuation of current policies for a bit longer.

Not forever. We'll get to the other side of this virus. But one needn't be a scientist to recognize a causal relationship between social distancing and reduced infection rates.

Trump, however, seems to think we can ignore the reasons for a better-than-expected trend and pivot quickly back to "normal." His cohorts on Fox News seem to agree, as when former education secretary Bill Bennett recently declared there IS no pandemic and that the number of deaths from this coronavirus, currently projected to be about 60,000, will be no worse than the number of deaths in the 2017-2018 flu season, which killed 61,000.

With all due respect, there are differences of an exponential order.

First, many people get the flu, but it is less contagious and less

lethal than COVID-19, for which there is no vaccine. Second, COVID-19 fatalities are ongoing. In New York on Monday, 778 people died of complications from the virus, bringing the state's total deaths to 10,834.

Without the restrictions governors put in place, the number of deaths certainly would have been much higher. And, if restrictions are lifted too soon, we risk seeing infections and deaths rise again. Plainly, we can't sustain what has become an economic disaster. But just as clearly, life won't be normal again until we can test widely for infections and antibodies, which could happen soon-ish, and until we have a vaccine, which won't be for a while. In the interim, reopening the country could be playing Russian Roulette.

Meanwhile, a big new factor has entered the political calculation: us. The American people have been changed by this virus – their practices as well as their values. Wondering each day whether the virus might invade our bodies has cast deathbed issues in stark relief. What really matters? We each answer this question in our own way, but political grandstanding probably isn't on anyone's list.

Unfortunately, this president's behavior the past several days has ratcheted up the sense that his only real commitment is, even now, to winning. A down-economy won't win him reelection, so, something-has-to-be-done. But in two weeks? Does Trump imagine that risking re-infection would ingratiate voters to his royal highness?

Long ago, this nation decided against having a king. In fact, we fought a revolution to liberate ourselves from monarchy. Let's keep it that way.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

The morbidity of 'stimulus'

COVID-19 is causing all kinds of trouble – for physical, mental and economic health. Policy-makers are trying to limit the pandemic's spread while dealing with its implications for individuals, companies and the economy.

For individuals, Congress and President Trump have chosen a dual approach. They're mailing checks to everybody, and there's assistance for those who have lost their jobs – an expanded form of unemployment insurance.

With assistance, there is a general trade-off between two desirable goals: well-targeted and delivered fast. Targeted is better – for key efficiency and equity reasons (it's less costly and why should people receive help if they don't need it?).

But the bureaucracy may not be able to execute a targeted policy quickly enough to help people in need. It takes time to process so many unemployment claims. And even with mailing out checks, if you don't have direct-deposit information already on file with the IRS, you probably won't get the money anytime soon.

For small business, the government is providing subsidies, deferring loans and taxes. Again, one worries about whether the bureaucracy will be nimble enough to implement these well. And for larger businesses, the government is subsidizing loans. The chief concern here is cronyism. In all of this, the broad problem is whether government activism in practice will work (nearly) as well as one would hope.

One implication: Our leaders are calling this "stimulus," but that doesn't make it so. Even if some of the pieces are stimulating, it does not mean that it will help overall. We only need to remember the Great Recession under Presidents Bush and Obama to see that "stimulus" does not always stimulate.

Another concern is that this new spending of \$2 trillion is additional deficit spending – when the government has already amassed an impressive national debt and has made promises that amount to liabilities (Social Security and Medicare). With any government debt, there are ethical and practical issues. When and why should we make future taxpayers pay for stuff today? (The best examples are long-lived infrastructure; the weakest contexts are redistribution.)

With COVID, serious illness and death are more likely if there are underlying health conditions such as heart or respiratory ailments. These are called "co-morbidities." It's the same with our debt. This deficit spending, by itself, might be tolerable. But another \$2 trillion – on top of the current \$24 trillion and an estimated liability of \$50 trillion to retirees – could be fatal.

As in personal finance, there comes a point where one cannot recover from debt. Either the debt gets too large or the underlying resources to finance debt are diminished. Our economy is dealing with both right now: more debt and less GDP. How much debt and liabilities can we incur before the promises are incoherent and people will no longer loan us money at the same low-risk interest rates – or eventually, at all?

When that happens, the only option for an individual is bankruptcy. Government can do the same – renege on the debt altogether or devaluing the debt (e.g., paying it back 50 cents on the dollar). Government can also print money to pay the debt – leading to rampant inflation.

Default and inflation are devastating to those who have those resources, especially the retired. Both are painful for an economy and common in less-developed countries – a big part of why they remain "less-developed." At what point would our first-world problems become third-world sorts of problems?

If we survive this round of borrowing, the growth of government in a crisis usually leads to bigger government in the long-run – even after the crisis has ended. The nature of government spending and bureaucracy is that it's easier to add than to subtract. (Robert Higgs describes this beautifully in his classic book, "Crisis and Leviathan.")

Why don't people take government debt seriously? For one thing, we're spending someone else's money. Another problem: Trillions are so large that it's incomprehensible. It's helpful to use what I call the "rule of 12." Since we have one-third of a billion people in the U.S., every billion dollars will cost the average person \$3 – and \$12 from the average family of four. Trillions are more challenging, since it's one thousand billions. But it's still the same math: one trillion works out to \$12,000 in future taxes from a household of four; \$2 trillion is \$24,000.

Debt is useful in one way. If you follow the issue long enough, you can tell who's a partisan. When their party is in control of government, debt is never as big of an issue as when the other party is in control. (This is especially galling for Republicans, who often claim to be fiscally conservative. Similarly, Democrats should be thumped for avidly advocating military interventionism and pounding the working poor and middle class.)

But it's never a good look to be a partisan for lousy groups. We can hope they'll self-quarantine soon.

D. Eric Schansberg is professor of economics at Indiana University Southeast, adjunct scholar for the Indiana Policy Review Foundation and author of "Turn Neither to the Right nor Left: A Thinking Christian's Guide to Politics and Public Policy."

Invitations to marketing parties overwhelm uninterested friend

DEAR ABBY: I’m in my mid-40s, and a LOT of my female friends are involved in multilevel marketing companies. Whether it be for eye-lashes, sup-plements, jewelry, antiaging products, candles, leggings, etc., I receive nonstop “invitations” to buy their products.

Dear Abby



I’m old enough to know from experience that most of the products are rubbish, and many times way overpriced. I’m simply not interested. How do I politely (yet firmly) decline the invitations that come my way with-out hurting their feel-ings? – Multilevel Mar-keting Hater

DEAR MULTILEVEL MAR-KETING: It’s time you recognize the difference between a friendship and a marketing ploy. If you are invited to something, feel free to ask whether there will be any selling and, if there will be, de-cline. To do so is not be-ing rude or hurtful. Women who are really your friends will continue to be, and those who aren’t will disappear.

DEAR ABBY: My mom and stepdad occasion-ally watch my children to help us out or to spend time with them. I just found out that Mom will not put my 8-month-old into a crib or Pack ‘n Play to sleep. She puts her into bed along with my 4-year-old son. I have asked my mother repeat-edly not to do that, not only for safety, but so everyone can sleep. She refuses. She says I should trust them, and they should be allowed to do whatever they want when the kids are with them. Please tell me what to do.

– Frustrated Daughter

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Why you should trust someone who deliberately ignores your wishes is beyond me. Let me tell you what NOT to do. Do not allow your children to stay with your mother under these circumstances. Some-times Mama does NOT know best, and this is one of them. If you prefer your children not share the same bed, your wishes should be respected.

DEAR ABBY: My boy-friend and I live quite far from town and spend a lot of time in the car – usually his. He bought some air fresheners for his car, which made me nauseated and gave me headaches. I asked him to please remove them, but he refused because he doesn’t want to waste the \$2.50. He said he likes the smell.

Abby, we have two other vehicles we can take. I felt it was such a small thing he could do to make me feel better. He doesn’t agree. What is your opinion on the matter? – Stunk Up In Florida

DEAR STUNK: You may be allergic to something in that air freshener, which is why you got the headache and became nauseated. Asking your boyfriend to remove it was a small thing – not like asking him to remove a limb. If he were less self-centered and more considerate, he would have accommodated you.

In my opinion, you should take one of the other cars when you drive together.

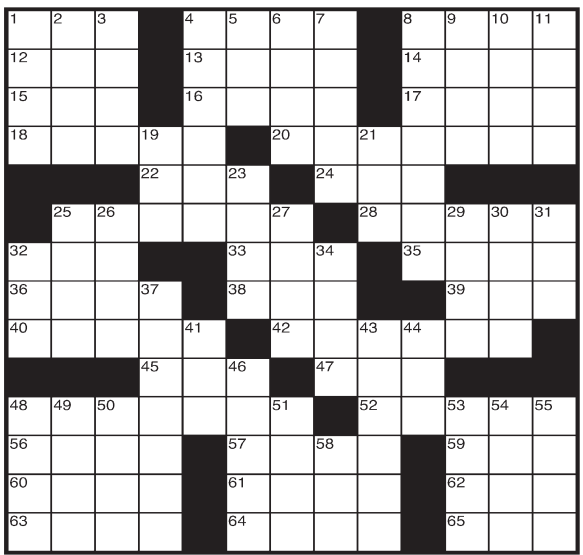
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Unopened flower
 - 4 Durable wood
 - 8 Shocks title
 - 12 Turkish
 - 13 Injection
 - 14 Fitzgerald or Raines
 - 15 Sneaky
 - 16 Oboe feature
 - 17 Unskilled worker
 - 18 Temple city of Japan
 - 20 Perfumed pouches
 - 22 Siesta
 - 24 Lock’s companion
 - 25 Hit a homer
 - 28 Some tests
 - 32 Heifer
 - 33 “— Bravo”
 - 35 Court case
 - 36 Cargo area
 - 38 A Gabor
 - 39 Shad’s eggs
 - 40 Hot topic
 - 42 Crocheted blanket
 - 45 Hosp. staffer

- 47 Old French coin
- 48 Lost
- 52 Man-eating giants
- 56 Aspirin target
- 57 Joule fractions
- 59 Catchall abbr.
- 60 Dove sounds
- 61 Super-man’s attire
- 62 Santa — winds
- 63 Cluster
- 64 Victorian oath
- 65 Pie container

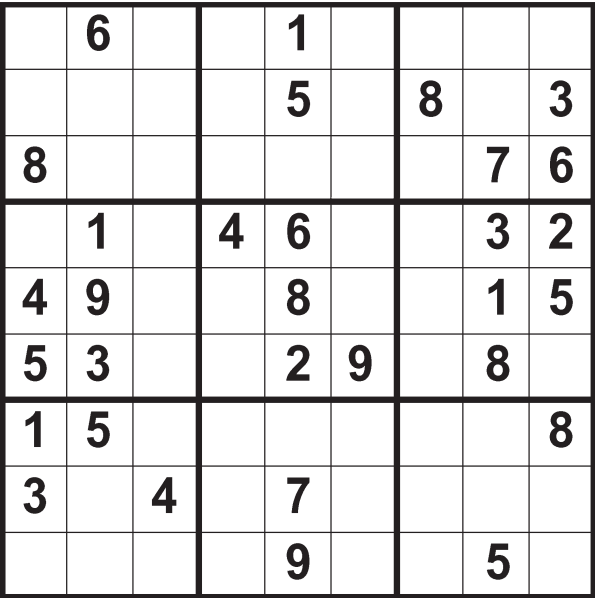
- DOWN**
- 1 Lie in the sun
 - 2 Like gargoyles
 - 3 The Banana Boat Song (hyph.)
 - 4 Gullet
 - 5 Look over
 - 6 Mimics
 - 7 Early camera
 - 8 Gentle breezes



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



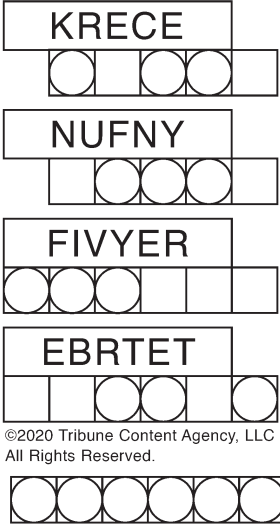
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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION																										
4	1	7	8	6	9	3	5	2																		
8	2	5	3	4	1	7	9	6																		
3	6	9	7	2	5	4	8	1																		
7	5	4	2	1	8	6	3	9																		
9	3	1	6	7	4	8	2	5																		
6	8	2	5	9	3	1	7	4																		
2	7	3	4	5	6	9	1	8																		
1	4	8	9	3	2	5	6	7																		
5	9	6	1	8	7	2	4	3																		

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

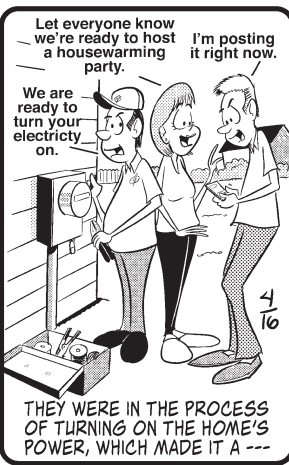


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Yesterday's Jumbles: EXILE MESSY BETRAY CACKLE Answer: They sold ketches, sloops and cutters. The total cost of each boat included — "SALES" TAX

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

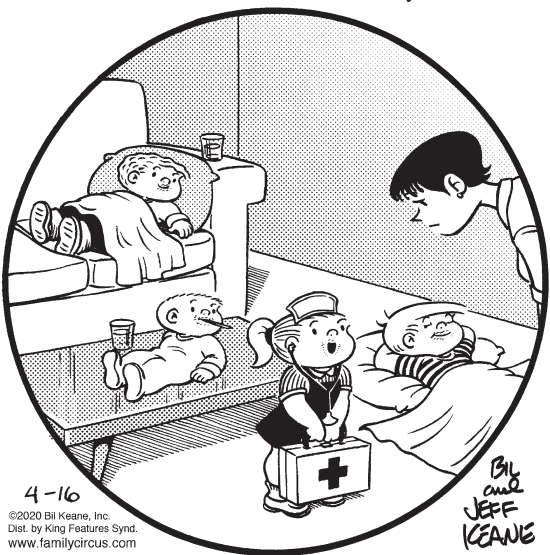


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

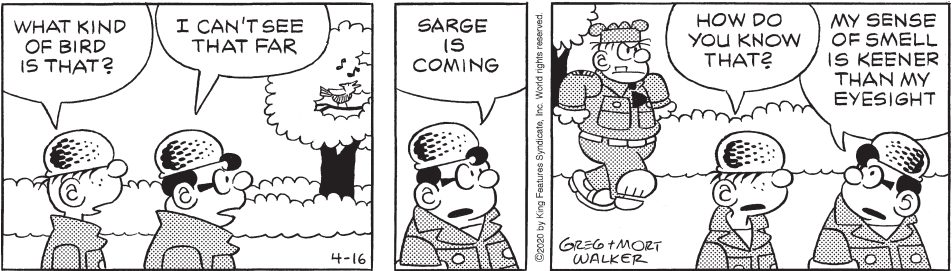
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

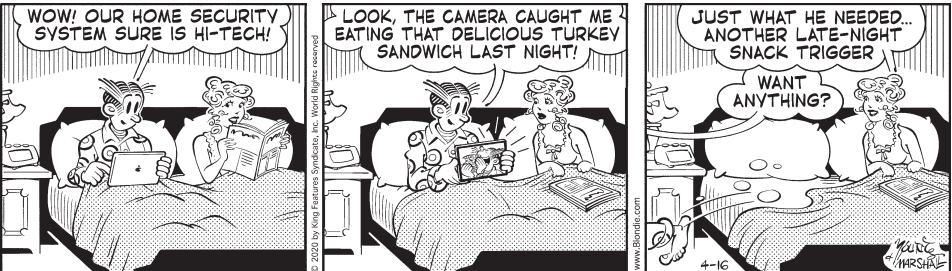


“Everybody wants to be sick. I’m using M&M’s for pills.”

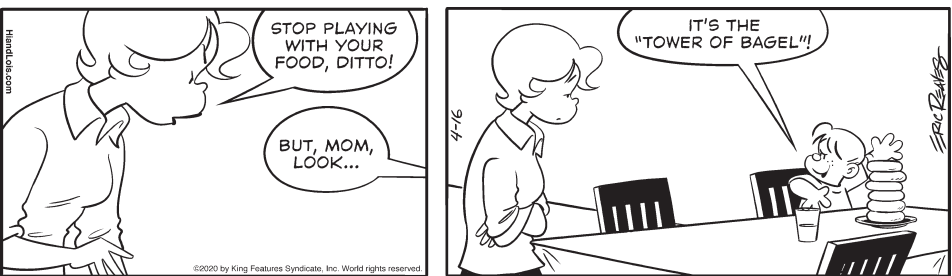
BEEBLE BAILEY



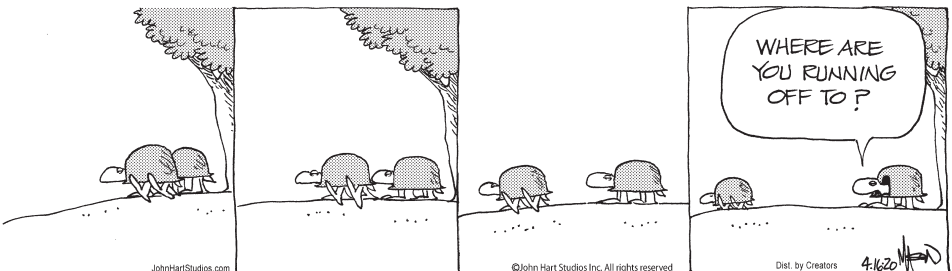
BLONDIE



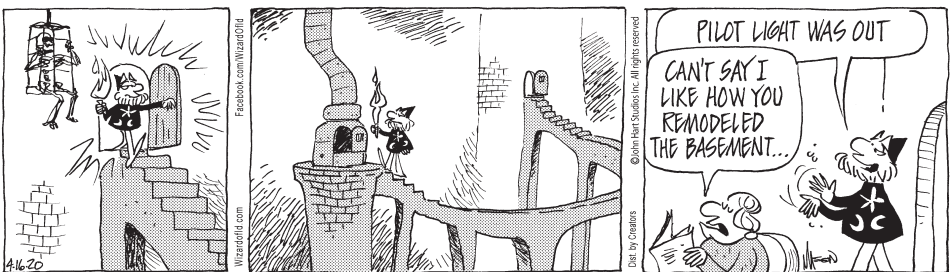
HI & LOIS



BC



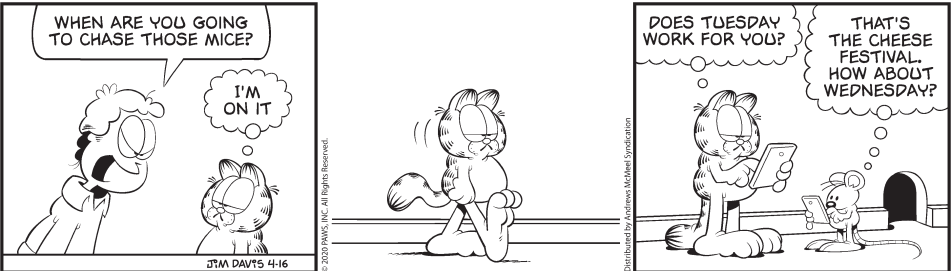
WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



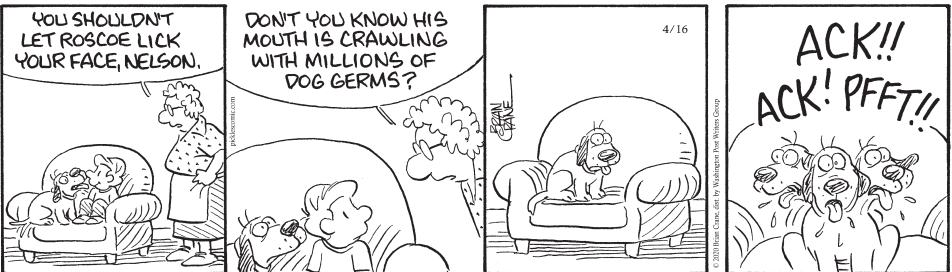
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



God will forgive those who come to Him

Q: Does it matter which God we believe in as long as we believe in someone greater than ourselves? – G.W.

A: A remarkable fact for all seekers of God is that belief in some kind of God is practically universal. Whatever period of history we study, whatever culture we examine, if we look back in time, we see all peoples, primitive or modern, acknowledging some kind of deity.

Archaeology has unearthed the ruins of many ancient civilizations, but none has ever been found that did not yield some evidence of a god who was worshiped. Man has worshiped the sun and carved idols. Man has worshipped a set of rules, animals, and people. Some seem to worship themselves. Man has made gods out of his imagination,

although basically through a fog of confusion he believes that God does exist.

Some people give up the pursuit of God in frustration, calling themselves “atheists” or “agnostics,” professing to be irreligious. Instead they find it necessary to fill the vacuum left within them with some other kind of deity. Therefore, man makes his own “god” – money, work, success, fame, sex, or alcohol, even food.

Today many use their nation as an object of worship, espousing the gospel of nationalism mistakenly displacing

the true and living God with the religion of nationalism. Others make a god of their cause. Although many radical groups deny faith in God, thousands willingly lay down their lives and suffer privation and poverty because of their belief in “the cause” or “the revolution.”

Failing to find the true God leads to no ultimate answers. Just as Adam was made for fellowship with God, so are all men. No matter what a person has done, God will forgive those who come to Him in humble repentance.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“BTF’LU JTO OT JT VNOUI BTFI
RIUVPC. YN BTF RTW’O PVXU VW
UNNTIO, WTOZYWJ’C ULUI JTYWJ OT
EZVWJU.” – XULYW KVPUC

Previous Solution: “If the Lord had meant us to pay income taxes, he’d have made us smart enough to prepare the return.” — Kirk Kirkpatrick

TODAY’S CLUE: C equals E



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WHO, allies lament Trump cut to U.S. funding as virus rages

By **JAMEY KEATEN**
and **MARIA CHENG**
Associated Press

GENEVA — The head of the World Health Organization on Wednesday lamented the U.S. decision to halt funding for the U.N. agency, promising a review of its decisions while side-stepping President Donald Trump’s complaints about its alleged mismanagement, cover-up and missteps.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was on the defensive after Trump announced a halt to U.S. funding that has totaled nearly a half-billion dollars annually in recent years. Trump claimed the WHO had parroted Chinese assurances about how the virus is spread, failed to obtain virus samples from China, and made a “disastrous decision” to oppose travel restrictions as the outbreak spread.

Countries and health experts around the world expressed alarm at Trump’s move and warned it could jeopardize efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic. Philanthropists like Bill Gates and Michael Bloomberg joined European and African leaders and health experts who lined up behind the WHO or insisted the U.S. shouldn’t cut off funding at such a critical time.

While Trump pointed to a U.S. investigation of the U.N. agency, Tedros stopped short of addressing his complaints directly and said the WHO’s performance in handling the outbreak would be reviewed as part of a “usual process” to ensure transparency and accountability.

“We regret the decision of

the president of the United States to order a halt in funding to the World Health Organization,” Tedros said. “WHO is reviewing the impact on our work of any withdrawal of U.S. funding and will work with our partners to fill any financial gaps we face.”

“No doubt, areas for improvement will be identified and there will be lessons for all of us to learn,” he added. “But for now, our focus — my focus — is on stopping this virus and saving lives.”

The exact fallout from a halt in U.S. funding was far from clear.

The WHO runs on biennial budgets, and U.S. funding comes in two main forms — about three-fourths of it through “voluntary” contributions and one-fourth through “assessed” contributions, which are a bit like regular dues. The U.S. already contributed at least \$15 million to a \$675 million emergency fund set up by the WHO to help pay for the initial coronavirus response through April.

“Trump has a mercurial reputation. So he sort of promises death and destruction and then it doesn’t necessarily happen,” said Gian Luca Burci, a former legal counsel for WHO who now teaches at Geneva’s Graduate Institute. “I think it will become more clear in the next few weeks.”

He noted WHO’s tricky task of uniting opposing constituencies: China and the U.S. have been at odds on a number of issues.

“Maybe Tedros went too far,” he said. “But you can see also some of the reasons why he wanted to secure China’s cooperation.”

Trump has repeatedly

labelled COVID-19 the “Chinese virus” and criticized the agency for being too lenient on China, where the novel coronavirus first emerged late last year.

Outside experts have questioned China’s reported infections and deaths from the virus, calling them way too low and unreliable. An investigation by The Associated Press has found that a six-day delay between when Chinese officials learnt about the virus and when they warned the public allowed the outbreak to blossom into an enormous public health disaster.

The WHO has been particularly effusive in its praise for China, calling on other countries to emulate its approach and repeatedly praising its transparency.

Tedros has also heaped compliments on Trump, praising his “great job” in responding to the outbreak last month.

The European Union on Wednesday said Trump has “no reason” to freeze WHO funding at this critical stage and called for measures to promote unity instead of division.

In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the country is “seriously concerned” about the U.S. decision.

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who this week emerged from intensive care after contracting the virus, declined to criticize either China or Trump.

“The U.K. has no plans to stop funding the WHO, which has an important role to play in leading the global health response,” James Slack said.

Political fault lines emerged in the U.S., with

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, saying the “dangerous, illegal” decision to halt funding “will be swiftly challenged.” Sen. Lindsay Graham, a Republican ally of Trump, insisted that “we cannot afford China apologists running the WHO.”

Aid workers in developing countries worried they might be hit hardest.

“Trump’s decision ... is pulling the rug out from under our feet at a pivotal moment. It will impact the humanitarian community as a whole,” said Tom Peyre-Costa, regional media adviser for Central and West Africa for the Norwegian Refugee Council. “It defies logic at the height of a global pandemic and will lead to many more deaths.”

On Twitter, Bill Gates — whose foundation was the agency’s second-largest donor for its latest two-year budget, contributing over \$530 million — wrote that stopping funding for the WHO during a world health crisis “is as dangerous as it sounds.”

Worldwide, the pandemic has infected over 2 million people and killed over 128,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Some global health academics said Trump’s attacks might actually strengthen WHO credibility.

“If Trump was making a great success of the pandemic response in the U.S., if there were minimal cases and deaths there, that might be different,” said Sophie Harman, a professor of international politics at Queen Mary University of London. “But things are getting worse and that reinforces the need for WHO.”

Indiana’s coronavirus deaths nearly quadruple in 2 weeks

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana’s death toll from the coronavirus outbreak has nearly quadrupled since the beginning of April as state health officials on Wednesday reported 49 additional deaths.

The new COVID-19 death reports occurred between March 28 and Tuesday, increasing the state’s total to 436 deaths, according to the Indiana State Department of Health. Agency statistics show that 111 coronavirus deaths had occurred through March 31.

Tests also confirmed 440 more COVID-19 illnesses, boosting Indiana’s total number of cases to nearly 9,000.

Almost 90 percent of Indiana’s deaths have been among people ages 60 and older.

Elderly people and those with serious health troubles living in nursing homes are among the most at-risk from COVID-19 infections. At least 46 residents of 12 long-term care facilities in Indiana have died from the virus, including 22 patients from an Anderson nursing home, according to the state health department.

Indiana’s state health commissioner, Dr. Kristina Box, said this week she expected the coronavirus illness peak in late April for the Indianapolis area and the first weeks of May for rest of the state.

Virus choking off supply of what Africa needs most: Food

By **FARAI MUTSAKA**
Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — In a pre-dawn raid in food-starved Zimbabwe, police enforcing a coronavirus lockdown confiscated and destroyed 3 tons of fresh fruit and vegetables by setting fire to it. Wielding batons, they scattered a group of rural farmers who had traveled overnight, breaking restrictions on movement to bring the precious produce to one of the country’s busiest markets.

The food burned as the farmers went home empty-handed, a stupefying moment for a country and a continent where food is in critically short supply.

It was an extreme example of how lockdowns to slow the spread of the coronavirus may be choking Africa’s already-vulnerable food supply.

Lockdowns in at least 33 of Africa’s 54 countries have blocked farmers from getting food to markets and threatened deliveries of food assistance to rural populations. Many informal markets where millions buy their food are shut.

About one in every five people in Africa, nearly 250 million, already didn’t have enough food before the virus outbreak, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization. A quarter of the population in sub-Saharan Africa is undernourished.

“This is double any other region,” said Sean Granville-Ross, director for Africa at the aid agency Mercy Corps. “With lockdowns, border closures and the ability to access food curtailed, the impact of COVID-19 on Africa could be like nothing we have seen before.”

Lockdowns without provisions to help the poor “may affect us very, very much,” said Lola Castro, regional director in southern Africa for the U.N. World Food Program.

The Kibera slum in Kenya’s capital, Nairobi, is at a breaking point already. Last week, thousands of desperate people scrambled for food aid at a distribution point, causing a stampede.

The World Food Program was already feeding millions in Africa, mainly rural people, due to a myriad of disasters: Floods, drought, armed conflict, government failures, even plagues of locusts. The pandemic has added another layer of hardship.

Take Sudan, where restrictions to combat the virus are hampering aid workers from reaching some of the 9.2 million people in need, according to the U.N.

The most severe drought in decades is already threatening about 45 million people with hunger across southern Africa, where farmers are still recovering from two devastating cyclones that battered Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi last year.

Somalia, one of the world’s most fragile countries, is struggling to get food to people living in extremist-controlled areas. Two months ago it declared a national emergency over an outbreak of desert locusts that devoured tens of thousands of hectares

of crops and pastures. That left 20 million people with dire food shortages in East Africa. Now t he locusts are back, more of them this time.

In West Africa’s Sahel region, nearly 30 million are struggling to find food, said Granville-Ross of Mercy Corps.

On top of these problems, the World Bank said the virus could create “a severe food security crisis in Africa.”

Among those at risk are millions of children normally fed through WFP’s school meals program. A few weeks after the virus crept into Africa, so many schools have been closed that 65 million children are now missing out on meals, WFP told The Associated Press.

For many Africans, the immediate concern is not the virus — it’s surviving the lockdowns.

“Most Africans work in the informal sector and need to go out every day,” World Health Organization Africa regional chief Matshidiso Moeti said. “I think above all of access to food.”

The virus has been slow to spread in Africa, which has not yet experienced the drastic number of cases and deaths witnessed in parts of Europe, Asia and the United States. The continent of nearly 1.3 billion people has reported just over 15,000 cases and 815 deaths, although those figures may be vastly under-reported.

But while direct casualties are still relatively low, the “large majority” of economies at risk from the pandemic are in Africa, according to WFP.

“For many poor countries, the economic consequences will be more devastating than the disease itself,” said WFP. British charity Oxfam warned that if Africa doesn’t get help, the fight against poverty could be set back “by as much as 30 years.”

Ordinary Africans can’t expect much help from their governments, many of which are already laboring with huge debts and low foreign currency reserves. Falling global oil and mineral prices mean that Africa’s exports are worth less now.

Some are making drastic decisions.

In a street in Zimbabwe’s capital, Harare, Eugene Wadema trudges along, searching for transport to get back to her rural home 300 kilometers away.

In the days before the lockdown, food prices shot up at a rate many Zimbabweans, already hammered by a ruined economy and the world’s second-highest inflation rate, just couldn’t handle.

“Here, the price of a pack of potatoes is now \$40. It was \$15 yesterday,” the 23-year-old Wadema said. She said her rural homeland is one of the lucky ones still receiving food aid but she doesn’t know how long it will last.

Behind her, her husband holds a small child. Two other young children — 5-year-old twins — try to keep up as they carry bags with clothes and blankets. But there’s no food for the journey.

“If we had food we wouldn’t be going,” Wadema said.

More states finally paying \$600 extra in unemployment aid

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
and **SUSAN HAIGH**
Associated Press Writers

HARTFORD, Conn. — The bills are mounting for Justin Conrad, who lost his warehouse job three weeks ago and is anxiously awaiting his first state-provided unemployment check. Compounding his stress, his state, Connecticut, can’t say when Conrad will get the additional \$600 a week in benefits that the federal government is providing in an economic relief package.

“I have no money coming in,” says the 39-year old in Norwich, Connecticut. “And this week I have to pay my utility bill,” he added with a nervous laugh. “With nothing coming in and very little anyone can say, it’s hard.”

Connecticut’s labor officials are scrambling to reprogram their computers to handle the additional unemployment payouts. Its decades-old system can process weekly payments only in the hundreds of dollars, or three digits. Problem is, the additional \$600 from the federal government extends the payments into four digits.

Most other states have started to provide the extra federal jobless aid, though many did so only this week, nearly a month after businesses began shutting down across the country because of the coronavirus outbreak. At least 32 states will provide the extra federal benefits by the end of this week. California, the most populous state, provided its first extra payment on Sunday.

But several large states — among them Washington, Colorado and Wisconsin — were still struggling to process those payouts as of late Tuesday.

The disparity reflects the patchwork nature of America’s unemployment benefits system: Benefits and

eligibility rules vary sharply from state to state. And the slow and fitful distribution of payments points to the antiquated information technology that many states still rely upon for unemployment payments. Roughly two-thirds use a near-obsolete programming language, COBOL, that dates to the 1970s.

The situation has been frustrating and worrisome for the laid-off. Conrad is also a plumber and is looking for side jobs. “But even that’s very limited, because nobody wants you anywhere near their house,” he said.

As a single father with custody of a 16-year old son, “I can only do so much, which he understands,” Conrad said. “It’s like, ‘Eat what you can, but not too much.’”

Across the country, state officials say they’re working as fast as they can to process and distribute benefits.

“Once programming is complete, we must test to ensure accurate integrity and accounting measures,” said Nancy Steffens, a spokeswoman for Connecticut’s Department of Labor, who came out of retirement to help the agency amid a crush of jobless claims. She acknowledged that the aging COBOL system has made it “challenging” to handle the federally provided aid.

Michele Evermore, an analyst at the National Employment Law Project, noted that the additional federal benefits provide crucial support for millions. For a typical laid-off U.S. worker, state unemployment aid alone equals only about half the income the worker received from the job that was lost.

In normal times, the lower payments are meant to encourage people to quickly look for a new job. But in this case, the viral outbreak has shut down businesses,

and Americans are being urged to stay home to avoid infections. The additional federal unemployment aid enables more people to follow those guidelines and not go out seeking jobs that don’t exist in many cases.

“I actually view the \$600 as an important public health measure, almost more than a financial payment in a way,” Evermore said.

Like other states, Connecticut has been trying simultaneously to overhaul its computer systems and process a record-high surge in jobless claims. Nearly 17 million people have filed for such aid in the just the past three weeks, representing more than one in 10 American workers. The government is set to report Thursday that millions more applied for benefits last week.

Florida’s unemployment benefit system has struggled mightily to keep up with the crush, even resorting to the use of paper applications. The state began distributing the additional \$600 on Tuesday.

Hundreds of thousands of Floridians who sought jobless aid encountered an online portal that crashed and phone systems that kept them on hold for hours. Now, the belated distribution of the federal benefits will be a huge relief for people like Desi Marinov, 42, a former flight attendant in Fort Lauderdale. She’s been cutting back on her prescription medications and reducing her cellphone use. And she’s asked her landlord to defer her rent.

“Any penny counts, especially when getting my job back is uncertain,” Marinov said.

Just six weeks ago, the unemployment rate was at a 50-year low, and few worried about filing for unemployment. Analysts say that lack of concern extended to many state of-

Food



Provided photo by Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

These blondies include toffee, which makes for a sweet and very butterscotchy bar.

Team cookie or team bar?

By LYNDA BALSLEV

Do you prefer cookies or bars? I stand with bars. Simply put, they are easy to bake – just spread the batter in one pan at once. I also prefer the texture of a bar, with its crunchy top and crisp edges that give way to gooey center that melts in the mouth. And lastly, I think bars store better. I know, I know, who am I kidding. It’s not like these sweets don’t get gobbled up before you can say brown butter, right? It’s true, though. I find that bars freeze exceptionally well, and don’t dry out, unlike cookies – or at least the cookies I make.

And speaking of brown butter: Whether it’s a cookie or a bar you’re baking, brown butter is that extra ingredient that tips a sweet from good to decadent. Brown butter adds a golden, nutty, butterscotchy color and flavor. The method to brown butter is simple. Melt the butter and continue to cook it until it takes on a deep golden, light brown color with a toasty aroma. The key is to keep an eye on the butter, since it can go from light brown to dark brown to burnt very quickly. It’s not the time to step away from the stove and water your plants.

These blondies include toffee, which makes for a sweet and very butterscotchy bar. Finely chopped bittersweet chocolate helps to balance out the sweetness of the butter.

Brown Butter Toffee Bars

Active Time: 15 minutes
Total Time: 45 minutes
Yield: Makes about 25 (1 1/2-inch) bars

1 cup unsalted butter, melted and browned, cooled

1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup (packed) dark brown sugar
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 large egg plus 1 egg yolk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup chopped toffee bars, about 5 ounces
1/2 cup finely chopped bittersweet chocolate, about 2 ounces
Sea salt for sprinkling, optional

Melt the butter in a medium heavy-bodied saucepan over medium heat, whisking frequently. Continue to heat the melted butter until it begins to foam and then subsides, 4 to 5 minutes. Continue to cook until the butter has a deep amber color with a nutty, toasted aroma. Keep a careful eye on the butter, since it can quickly go from brown to burnt. When the butter has browned, remove the pan from the heat and pour the butter into a heat-resistant bowl to stop the cooking process. Cool completely. (At this point, you can use the butter as-is, or strain the butter through a cheesecloth or fine-mesh strainer to remove the brown bits. For this recipe, keep the brown bits for extra flavor.)

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter an 8-by-8-inch baking pan and line with parchment.

Combine the flour, baking soda and salt in a small bowl.

Whisk the sugars, egg and yolk in a large bowl until light, about 3 minutes. Whisk in the cooled butter and vanilla until smooth. Add the flour mixture and stir to combine. Stir in the toffee and chocolate.

Spread the batter in the prepared pan. Sprinkle with sea salt, if using. Transfer to the oven and bake until golden and a toothpick inserted comes clean, about 30 minutes. Cool completely on a rack. Cut into squares.



Provided photo

Offering a modern reinvention of lasagna, this dish uses zucchini noodles (actual strips of zucchini) and a tomato sauce filled with the goodness of walnuts in place of ground beef.

Walnut tomato sauce with zucchini lasagna noodles

By SHARON PALMER, MSFS, RDN

carbohydrates, 5 g protein, 5 g dietary fiber, 231 mg sodium, 12 g sugar.

Who says that enjoying lasagna has to be an event mired down with gooey cheese, rich meat sauce and layers of pasta? This recipe for walnut tomato sauce with zucchini lasagna noodles is proof that it doesn’t! Offering a modern reinvention of lasagna, this dish uses zucchini noodles (actual strips of zucchini) and a tomato sauce filled with the goodness of walnuts in place of ground beef.

Eating more nuts, such as walnuts, is a great way to boost your health. Research shows that you can reduce your risk of cancer, including colorectal cancer, by including more nuts like walnuts in your diet. Plus, eating a more plant-based diet featuring whole grains, vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds and pulses and less animal protein, is a good strategy to reduce your risk of cancer. Start with this delicious and easy recipe for walnut tomato sauce with zucchini lasagna noodles!

Zucchini ‘Lasagna Noodles’

4 small zucchini squash
Walnut Tomato Sauce
1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1 medium onion, finely diced
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 stalks celery, finely chopped
5 ounces (about 2 cups) mushrooms, thinly sliced
1 32-ounce jar marinara sauce
2 Tbsp. tomato paste
1 Tbsp. soy sauce
1/2 cup red wine
1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning blend
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1/4 tsp. salt (optional)
1 1/2 cups ground walnuts, divided
Nonstick cooking spray
Filling
1 cup shredded plant-based cheese
Garnish
2 Tbsp. chopped Italian parsley
Makes 8 servings. Per serving: 282 calories, 17 g total fat (4 g saturated fat), 0 mg cholesterol, 26 g

Directions

Slice zucchini horizontally into long, thin slices (about 5 horizontal slices per squash). Place on paper towels and set aside (to soak up extra moisture).

Place a Dutch oven or large saucepan on medium heat and add olive oil.

Add onion, garlic and celery, and sauté for 3 minutes, stirring frequently.

Add mushrooms and sauté for an additional 2 minutes.

Add marinara sauce, tomato paste, soy sauce, red wine, Italian seasoning, black pepper and salt (if using). Stir well and cover. Simmer over medium heat for 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until thickened and vegetables are tender.

Measure out 1 1/4 cups ground walnuts (may chop in a food processor or high-powered blender; should resemble consistency of coarse grains of sand, but should not be overly processed to a flour texture), reserving remaining 1/4 cup ground walnuts for topping. Add the 1 1/4 cups ground walnuts to the sauce, and heat for 2 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Spray a 13x9-inch baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. Place one-third (6-7 slices) of the zucchini slices on the bottom of the dish. Layer with one-third of the walnut tomato sauce. Sprinkle with 1/3 cup of the shredded cheese. Repeat layers two more times, for a total of three layers of zucchini, walnut tomato sauce and cheese.

Place baking dish in the oven uncovered and bake for 40 minutes.

Sprinkle remaining 1/4 cup ground walnuts over top of lasagna and set oven to broiler setting. Broil for 2 minutes, until golden brown.

Remove from oven, garnish with fresh chopped parsley, slice into squares and serve immediately.

Notes

■ May substitute with dairy based cheese, if desired (such as Mozzarella).

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